

Wealth Of Health Service, League Forte

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was voted that each of the 7 churches represented should send five persons from their membership to form an executive committee. The subject of a name for this organization was then considered. It was voted that the membership fee be 25 cents.

From this beginning the Social Service League grew and by the third meeting of the Board, a name was chosen and committees formed which included Visiting Nurse, Supply, Baby Care, and later, in the schools, a Cooking, Sewing and a School Gardens committee.

By August, five months later, the idea of sales to obtain money was presented. It would be a sale of children's clothing and "contributions of old or new garments was desired." The money ultimately realized from the sale was \$17.60 and was "sufficient to last until after the holiday" (or one month). This was the start of the Consignment Shop, now located in Cushing Plaza, which is still the major source of League revenue.

March 31, 1914, saw the first preventive medicine program with the notation: "Mrs. Dean James told us of the Better Baby Contest and asked whether it might not be advantageous to Cohasset to engage in this work. Mrs. James told of the many examinations which were given to each child and of how much help these were to the mothers who were thus shown just when a child was not progressing and what to do to aid it to grow in the right direction."

In 1915, an interest in politics was evidenced by the entry: "Mrs. Howe told of a meeting of the Mass. Board of Charities, which she attended

where the subject under discussion was the most interesting one of the Mother's Pension Bill." By 1918 prenatal care was added to the services of the League under the capable guidance of Miss Weir, who provided instruction to the prospective mother.

"Not only the death rate is lowered," reported Miss Weir "but almost as important though harder to compute is the amount of discomfort, misery and suffering the little ones are saved from, by intelligent care on the part of their mother, not to mention the many disabilities for life that are acquired in infancy through neglect and ignorance on the part of the young mother."

Mary Fleming, one of the original volunteers of the Service League, well remembers Miss Weir riding through town on her bicycle, a petite and capable figure with flaming red hair.

The Quarterly report in 1918 records: "Early this month the sum we asked for the purchase of a Ford Run-About for the use of our nurse (Miss Weir) was appropriated without a dissenting voice. The Selectmen are about to get a car from the local dealer who will give us the use of a touring car without extra charge until such time as he can provide the Run-About which kind is hard to get at present."

It seems best, after due investigation, to get a self-starting appliance of some kind, also have the car insured and make arrangements for keeping it in a garage. The self-starter may cost in the neighborhood of \$100, but this should be an outlay which your committee deems wise and proper as Miss Weir should be spared the physical exertion of cranking up the

car.

The automobile was bought from our local dealer and Miss Weir has finished her necessary number of lessons and is able to run the car alone. The bicycle which our nurse has used for a number of years should now in the opinion of our committee be sold."

Miss Weir became indispensable to the League, which had considerable consternation handling her illness. It was noted: "Miss Weir unfortunately contracted German Measles and therefore was unable for two weeks to fill her post. However, she notified all the physicians by telephone and they were very considerate with waiting for her to get back to work. Miss Weir waited on herself and kept in communication with your chairman, so that she was the chief sufferer in the whole matter."

The Log of Diseases, kept

since the founding of the League, is a graphic record of childhood epidemics, recounting whooping cough in 1915, measles in 1916, scarlet fever in 1922, mumps in 1923 and chicken pox in 1926.

The infamous influenza outbreak of 1918 recorded 264 cases and six deaths, no doubt due to the quality of care in Cohasset. The first evidence of tuberculosis is noted in 1931. During these difficult times the faithful Doctors Fernald, Hinchcliffe, Badger and Schott kept vigil. The intensity of these epidemics and the concern of the Social Service League in preventing disease can be gauged by the following entry:

"Our committee has also endeavored after laboring under the disadvantage incident to the change of nurses to have our nurse assist in the work of stamping out the unduly prevalent and highly

communicative trouble in the heads of the school children. The mothers of the children must learn to realize that the evil is one that is absolutely avoidable and their good will is a matter of first importance in obtaining this desirable end." And "Mrs. Bates will be very glad to receive linen and we should like some heavy blankets and rugs for convalescents to lie on the floor in."

At the annual meeting in April of 1920, the subject of a talk by Miss Sibyl Halmer of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union in Boston was "Thrifty" which she defined as "the efficient use of income and good management in the business of living."

The Social Service League of Cohasset, with its proud record of service to the community, has always been guided by noble ideals, recorded many years ago and faithfully followed today.

Now Comes Exam Time

The week of January 23-26 is the end of the first semester at CHS which means it is the week of Midterms. The system of giving these tests at CHS is in its third year and still it receives mixed reactions from the students.

Midterms cover all material taught in the classroom from the September immediately preceding the tests to the day before the tests are given. The grade on this midyear exam will weigh as heavily as a term of school. This means that a two hour test is as important as two-and-one-half months of school.

It is true that the adverse reactions of the students toward the midyears are because the results are valued so

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heavily when the final mark in a class is being determined. The majority of CHS students feel that the midyear exams are a good idea as a preparation for the ones that must be taken in college, but that too much importance is placed on one test.

On the other hand, many former CHS students who are now in college feel that having midterms in high school made the college ones a little easier as certain patterns of studying were established for these large exams which could be

used later on.

The fact remains that despite some student unrest the midterms will still take place. This year they will be on Jan. 23, 24, 25, and 26. The exam schedule is arranged so that a student takes no more than two exams a day which can make the studying a little more spread out and therefore a little easier. To every CHS student who is taking these midyears, "Good luck and study hard" for these exams are too important to blow.



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